

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



EXHIBIT 1
DATE 4.3.07
SB SJ 3

JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

Mr. Chairmen members of the Committee for the record my name is Will Hammerquist. I come before you today to offer the full support of Governor Schweitzer and Lt. Governor Bohlinger for Senate Joint Resolution three.

Montana is a blessed state. The natural and cultural amenities provided to us as Montanans are unparalleled. And the crown jewels of these resources are our National Parks.

Our National Parks preserve and protect the most unique and special parts of Montana for the benefit and enjoyment of all Americans. When you ask people across this state what makes Montana special ~~some~~ of the most common responses are our clean waters, our wide open spaces, our wildlife, and the abundant access to public lands for recreation and enjoyment.

An investment in the National Park System is an investment in the Montana way of life for this and future generations.

But it is also an investment in our economy. Today, Montana has our most robust economy in decades. Unemployment is below three percent and personal income growth ranks in the top ten nationally.

National parks have emerged as contributing drivers of economic growth not just in the gateway communities in immediate proximity to parks, but across the State of Montana.

At the request of the National Parks Conservation Association, Governor Schweitzer is proud to have recently joined with a diverse group of Americans in urging for a renewed commitment from Congress to fund our country's National Parks. This group included former Presidents, Senators, Ambassadors, entertainers, and CEOs.

Senate Joint Resolution three is an opportunity for the Montana Legislature—as the elected voice of all Montanans—to express your support and affection, for not only the national parks we share and enjoy within our state as Montanans, but for the entire National Park System that we share and enjoy as Americans.